THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) Government has received a Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India for the year ended March 1998, Union Government (Commercial) (Steel Authority of India Limited) No. 6 of 1999 which also contains a chapter on Utilisation of Aircraft owned by the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL). A copy of the Report has also been placed on the table of both the Houses of Parliament.

(b) The Report of the CAG, *inter alia*, deals with non-adherence of guidelines issued by SAIL on the utilisation of aircraft, violation of air safety regulations, under utilisation of aircraft, cost of fights and maintenance and inventory.

(c) The Report of the CAG is being considered by the Government and the action on the matter is yet to be finalised.

(d) and (e) No aircraft of the Bokaro Steet Plant has met with any accident in the last few days.

Action on Ministry's Communication

*405. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMAD KHAN (DURRU) : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) what action has so far been taken by the Punjab Wakf Board on the Ministry's D.O. No. 10(15)/97-Wakf, dated 29th April 1997; and

(b) the present position of each issue ordered to be attended to in the said communication ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) and (b) The letter relates to a matter under consideration of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on functioning of the Wakf Board. Report of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on the matter is awaited. Information on the present position is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Provision of Drinking Water

*406. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have not been able to provide even basic amenity of drinking water to a large segment of people after 52 years of Independence having democratic Government;

(b) if so, what are Government's plans to provide these amenities to the masses; and

(c) by when the target would be achieved ?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAGMOHAN) : (a) and (b) Water Supply being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/urban local bodies to plan, formulate, execute, operate and maintain water supply facilities from the State Plan resources. However, in order to supplement the efforts of the State Government for providing water supply facilities, Centrally sponsored Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP) for towns having population less than 20,000 as per 1991 census and Centrally sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) for rural areas/habitations are being implemented by the Ministry of Urban Development and the Ministry of Rural Development respectively, under which assistance is provided to the State Governments to implement water supply schemes. Based on the information furnished by the States and UT Departments in-charge of urban water supply and sanitation, about 90.00% of the urban population is reported to have access to safe drinking water as on 31.3.97. The Ministry of Rural Development has also informed that as per the information furnished by the State Governments, out of a total of 14,30,543 rural habitation in the country, 11,92,377 habitations are fully covered with access to drinking water facilities; 2,11,685 habitations are partially covered; and 26,481 habitations are yet to be provided with drinking water facilities.

(c) The Ministry of Rural Development has informed that the State Governments were requested to prepare comprehensive action plans to attain the objective of providing safe drinking water to all rural habitations in next five years by clearly indicating the annual requirement of funds. Action Plans in respect of all the States and UTs except for Orissa, Manipur, A&N Islands, Chandigarh, Daman & Diu have since been received. The requirement of the financial resources can be known after all the State Government and Union Territories concerned prepare comprehensive action plan and figures in this regard are finalised.

The Working Group on Urban Water Supply & Sanitation Sector for 9th Five Year Plan constituted by the Planning Commission under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development assessed a requirement of Rs. 51,284.20 crores for urban water supply and sanitation

sector including Rs. 26,301 crores for urban water supply in the 9th Five Year Plan in order to provide water supply facilities to 100% of the urban population by the end of 9th Five Year Plan, *i.e.* 1997—2002. As against a requirement of Rs. 51,284.20 crores, the Planning Commission have made a tentative allocation of Rs. 18,624 crores, of which Rs. 864 crores are under Central Plan and Rs. 17,760 crores under State Plan for the 9th Plan Period. Achievement of the target to provide 100% population with safe drinking water would depend upon provision of adequate funds by the Planning Commission in the successive Plans.

Employment Opportunities for NER Urban Areas

*407. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA : Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to generate more employment opportunities in the urban areas of NER during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof district-wise and State-wise;

(c) the target fixed for the purpose during the Ninth Plan; and

(d) follow-up action taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA) : (a) During the Ninth Five Year Plan, the Government has introduced a unified scheme called the Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) for the benefit of the urban poor in the urban areas throughout the country including North Eastern Region. The two main components of the Scheme are Urban Self Employment Programme (USEP) and Urban Wage Employment Programme (UWEP) which seek to provide gainful employment to unemployed or under-employed urban poor living below poverty line who have read upto 9th standard, for setting up of self-employment ventures or provision of wage employment by utilising their labour for construction of socially and economically useful public assets.

(b) The State-wise details of financial and physical progress of Urban Self Employment Programme and Urban Wage Employment Programme, in respect of North Eastern States, as reported by them are given in the annexed Statement. *(See* below). The District-wise progress of implementation of the Programme is not monitored at the Centre.

(c) and (d) Fixing of targets is the responsibility of the States as per their priorities under the Programme.